

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants note the Examiner's objections to the Information Disclosure Statement and note that allegedly the Statement fails to fully comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98 and MPEP Paragraph 609.

However, applicants note that the Information Disclosure Citation page (Form PTO-1449), attached to the Information Disclosure Statement, as submitted on June 13, 2005, clearly identifies the U.S. patents, the inventors and the dates, and the listing of the year in two digits (last two digits) rather than four digits, is a commonly accepted practice. Consequently, applicants note that the Examiner's declining to review the U.S. patents is considered to be unwarranted, inasmuch as appropriate identification of English-language patents have been clearly provided. However, in order to meet the requirements so as to overcome the minor omission set forth in the previous Information Disclosure Citation sheet (Form PTO-1449), applicants herewith enclose an updated sheet, setting forth the dates of the U.S. patents, as requested by the Examiner.

Furthermore, with regard to the previously submitted European document, EP 0 691 637 A1, dated October 1, 1996, although this particular publication does not have an English-language equivalent, applicants have obtained an English-language Abstract, and herewith submit a further copy of that publication, together with the English-language Abstract. In view of the foregoing, applicants request that full consideration be given by the Examiner to the previously submitted prior art, inasmuch as all requirements pertaining to formal matters have been fully met in support

of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Furthermore, applicants note the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Applicants' own earlier U.S. Patent No. 6,203,180 B1 to Fleischman, in view of Bello, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 6,481,877 B1, as detailed in the Office Action, although the Examiner admits that various aspects of the claims are not disclosed in those particular patents when considered individually.

Furthermore, applicants note that with regard to Claim 6, this has been rejected as being unpatentable over Fleischman in view of Bello Jr. and further in view of Kazar, U.S. Patent No. 5,008,595, wherein the Examiner again refers to the prior art as not individually disclosing all of the salient features of the present invention, but rather relying on a combination of the art.

In traverse of the rejection of the claims as being allegedly unpatentable and wherein applicants' own earlier patent is considered the primary reference of record, applicants respectfully take issue with the Examiner noting that irrespective as to whether the art is considered singly or in combination, it remained for the present applicants to inventively combine diverse features in the technology to devise the unique aspects as set forth and claimed herein.

Concerning the foregoing, in order to further distinguish over the art, and to clearly place this application into order for allowance, applicants have cancelled Claims 4 and 6 without prejudice and incorporated the limitations thereof into Claim 1, thereby setting forth further aspects which are considered to be novel.

Applicants respectfully take issue with the Examiner's combining of Fleischmann and Bello, Jr., inasmuch as neither of these publications are considered to be analogous art with regard to each other, and essentially, even if combined, would not lead to the present invention, as set forth in the claims. It is not ascertainable as to the manner as to how a transistor switch TR

disclosed in Bello, Jr. can be designed as a regulating module within the context of the present invention, and, consequently, it would not be plausible for one skilled in the art to combine the publications so as to be able to derive the present invention, as set forth in the claims.

However, inasmuch as applicants wish to advance the prosecution of this application, Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating further features, as set forth hereinabove. The regulating modules 12 through 15, pursuant to the present invention, obtain pulse width modulated (PMW) voltage signals from the control unit 1. These are converted in the regulating modules 12 through 15 in such a manner that a constant current (in effect, a current of constant current intensity) will flow through the therewith connected light emitting diodes 8.1 through 11.5, wherein the constant current is pulse width modulated in accordance with the input signal of the regulating modules 12 through 15. Hereby, the constant current intensity, which causes that the light emitting diodes to constantly emit light in the same defined color, whereas by means of the pulse width modulation, in essence, the pulsed switching on and switching off of the current flow through the light emitting diodes, enables the brightness which is received by the human eye with regard to the emitted light, to be varied.

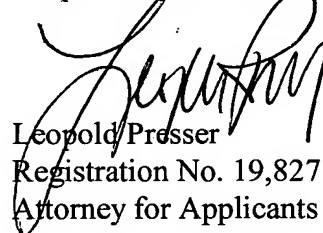
Thus, the foregoing aspects have been clearly elucidated in the amendment to Claim 1 and are not in any manner considered to be either known or suggested by the combination of the prior art publications.

Even combining the prior art with Kazar, U.S. Patent No. 5,008,595, would not be applicable to the claims, inasmuch as the combination of the three publications to Fleischmann, Bello, Jr. and Kazar does not disclose nor suggest the features of the present invention, as claimed.

In essence, none of the publications are readily combinable in a manner which would render the invention obvious to one of skill in this particular technology, and it remained for the present applicants to provide a lighting system for aircraft cabins, which has the advantageous and inventive features, as set forth in the claims.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, which are deemed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action, wherein applicants respectfully submit that the claims clearly and unambiguously distinguish over the art in a patentable manner, the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. However, applicants' attorney respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference or possible personal interview to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted



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Enclosures: Revised Information Disclosure Citation sheet (Form PTO-1449); and
European Document No. EP 0 691 637 A1 with English-language Abstract.